

### REMARKS

No claims have been canceled, amended or added in this paper. Therefore, claims 1-96, 108, 114, 124, 126 and 128 are pending. Of these claims, claims 1-59, 76-81, 96, 108, 114, 124, 126 and 128 are non-elected claims, as explained further below. Accordingly, claims 60-75 and 82-95 are under active consideration.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office issued the following restriction requirement:

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-23, drawn to a plastic fastener classified in class 411, subclass 904.

II. Claims 24-59 and 76-81, drawn to a fastener clip, classified in class 206, subclass 345.

III. Claims 60-75 and 82-95, drawn to a method of fixing articles together, classified in class 29, subclass 428.

IV. Claim 96, drawn to a tool having an anvil guard, classified in class 227, subclass 67.

V. Claims 108 and 124, drawn to a tool having a linking member and triggering mechanism, classified in class 227, subclass 67.

VI. Claim 114, drawn to a tool having a feed guide, classified in class 227, subclass 67.

VII. Claims 126 and 128, drawn to a tool with a casing for completely containing a clip of fasteners, classified in class 227, subclass 67.


In response to the foregoing restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect Group III, claims 60-75 and 82-95.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

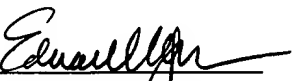
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 29, 2003

  
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